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1 August 1964

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UK-India: [The British are greatly disturbed over reports that the Indians have approached the Soviets for naval assistance and are considering a crash aid program of their own.]

[The British have heard that New Delhi has taken preliminary soundings for Soviet assistance in the construction of naval vessels. They also believe that Defense Minister Chavan will follow up these soundings with requests for firm commitments when he visits Moscow later this month.]

[The British heretofore have taken the position that military assistance to India should be aimed primarily at strengthening India's defense against Communist China. Hence, naval vessels have been assigned a very low priority on the list of Indian military requirements.]

[London, probably overreacting to fears of Soviet penetration of what has traditionally been a British preserve, is hastily reviewing what it can do to head off a Soviet-Indian deal. Government officials are trying to get immediate approval for a program that would include a grant of three old frigates and possibly coastal minesweepers and a submarine. A ten-year loan of \$38 million, to assist a Bombay shipyard in building additional frigates, is also part of the package.]

[London, aware that naval aid to India almost certainly will exacerbate its relations with Pakistan, is considering what it might offer Pakistan to offset the impact of whatever assistance is given to India.]

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NOTES

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***Italy-MLF:** The Socialist Party has agreed in principle with the other three parties in Premier Moro's new center-left government that Italy should participate in a seaborne multilateral nuclear force, according to a source close to Foreign Minister Saragat. He added, however, that the government is not yet ready to take a public stand on the issue. This hesitation is largely traceable to a reluctance to make a final commitment until it is clear which way the British intend to move.

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***Communist China - Pakistan:** Communist China has offered Pakistan a \$60-million, long-term credit, according to Pakistani Commerce Minister Zaman, who has just returned from a visit to Peiping. Zaman said this loan, the first such offered by Peiping to Pakistan, "could" be used to purchase Chinese textile machinery, industrial plants, and railroad equipment. Peiping has granted several such large, long-term credits to non-Communist countries in recent years, but drawings under these credits have been slow.

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Canada: The parliamentary struggle over a distinctive Canadian flag has taken on a new dimension. Opposition leader Diefenbaker is now threatening that unless the flag issue is tabled for this session he will continue to filibuster the appropriations bill, among others, until a lack of funds forces the government to call new elections. While there is substantial opposition to Diefenbaker's obstructionist tactics--even within his own party--he could cause a prolonged parliamentary tie-up, which might conceivably lead Pearson to change his mind and hold elections this year.

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British Guiana: [East Indians, increasingly dissatisfied with the chaotic situation in the colony, are apparently turning in unexpected directions. Governor Luyt has received numerous communications denouncing the politicians and calling for partition or for direct rule by the crown, and East Indians are also said to be planning to demonstrate before Government House for an "end to all politics and the resumption of direct rule." Such a demonstration--if coupled with a visit to Jagan's headquarters--might strike a significant psychological blow against his predominantly East Indian Peoples Progressive Party.]

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Nonaligned States: A meeting of the foreign ministers of the nonaligned states will immediately precede the neutralist summit conference now set for 5 October in Cairo. According to the official Yugoslav news service (TANJUG), the foreign ministers will work out the final draft agenda, which will be the subject of "particularly intensive" bilateral discussions in August. Belgrade hopes a nonaligned conference will take the steam out of efforts to convene a later, racially oriented, Afro-Asian summit meeting with which the Chinese are prominently associated.

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